3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

Primary Education

872 The normal primary course is of four to five years, consisting of a preparatory stage, of one to two years, and three standards above it. Primary education is given, so far as is possible, through the vernaculars of the pupils and, except in cases where the appropriate vernacular education is not obtainable, pupils are not normally allowed to enter a school in which English is used throughout as the medium of teaching until they have completed a primary course in their own vernacular. In Government schools and in most others English is not taught during the primary course.

[797] The language of over 60 per cent. of the population and the language of instruction in the Government Primary Schools, for both boys and girls, is Arabic. Primary school education for boys and girls is provided also through English, Gujarati and Urdu in aided schools and through Hebrew to a limited extent in unrecognized schools.

The following table gives the nominal roll and attendance figures for the primary schools in 1938 :—

	Number of Schools.				*Average Number on Rolls.*			*Average attendances.*
	Government.	*Aided.*	*Unrecognized.*	*Total.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*	
Boys ...	4	6	4	14	1,181	109*	1,290	1,140
Girls ...	2	4	1	7	20	527	547	474

* The large majority of these were in the lower classes of the Urdu schools.

The numbers of pupils in Government and aided primary schools were, boys 955, girls 468, total 1,423.

[797] Of the non-Government primary schools two aided boys' schools and one unrecognized boys' school are managed by the Roman Catholic Mission, one aided girls' school by the Danish Church Mission, one aided boys' school by the Church of Scotland Mission, and the rest by private local management.

872 873 At the end of the primary course a public examination is held through Arabic and Urdu, mainly as a qualifying test for admission to the lower section of the Government Secondary School. In 1938 127 candidates entered for this examination and 79 passed. Failure in this examination does not necessarily debar a pupil from entering the secondary school, but priority of place is generally given to those who pass.